

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

EB-07 AID-05 OES-06 /088 W  
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R 220905Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2178

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USUN NEW YORK 1064

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 4956

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN

SUBJECT: BDG VIEWS ON NEW DELHI TALKS ON FARAKKA

REF: DACCA 4819; (B) STATE 229213

1. POLCOUNSELOR RECEIVED RUN-DOWN ON NEW DELHI TALKS FROM MFA DIRGEN FOR INDIA ABDUL BARI SEPTEMBER 22. OTHER THAN TAKING RESTRAINED, IF SOMEWHAT PAINED, ATTITUDE BARIV HAD LITTLE TO ADD TO CONVERSATION BETWEEN CHARGE AND FON-SEC TABARRAK HUSAIN REPORTED EARLIER (REFTEL A).

2. BARI SAID THAT INDIANS CLAIMED TO HAVE MADE ADDITIONAL RELEASE OF WATERS (REFTEL B) BUT THAT ANY ADDITIONAL AMOUNT HAD NOT BEEN RECORDED AT HARDINGE BRIDGE. HE SAW SOME POSSIBILITY OF SHORT TERM (ANNUAL OR PERHAPS THREE YEAR AGREEMENT) SOLUTION BEING OFFERED BY INDIA POSSIBLY TO EXTENT OF REDUCTION IN FARAKKA LOW SEASON OFF TAKE BY AS MUCH AS 5000 CUSECS. THIS WOULD BE A GESTURE WHOLLY IN INDIAN HANDS BUT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE, SO HE SAID, TO BDG PROVIDED PROGRESS ON LONG TERM SOLUTION ACCOMPANIED GESTURE.

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3. HE CALLED BRAHMAPUTRA-GANGES LINK CANAL SOLUTION "NON-

STARTER" ON BASIS IT WOULD DISPLACE LARGE NUMBER OF BANGLADESHIS AND WOULD CUT OFF NORTHERN PORTION OF COUNTRY. HOWEVER, AS HE DEVELOPED THEME IT BECAME APPARENT THAT HE DID NOT FORECLOSE THIS AS POSSIBILITY AND HE SAID INDIANS WERE PREPARED TO DEVELOP STORAGE SITES IN ASSAM. BDG PREFERS STORAGE SITES IN GANGES CATCHMENT AND CLAIMS NEPAL WOULD BE PREPARED TO COOPERATE TO EXTENT SUCH SITES ARE IN ITS TERRITORY. INDIANS CLAIMED THAT COST-BENEFIT RATIO OF GANGES CATCHMENT SITES WAS ADVERSE AND THAT BRAHMAPUTRA OFFERED BETTER RETURN, ESPECIALLY IF WATER WERE PUT INTO GANGES UPSTREAM OF FARAKKA PERMITTING INDIA ADDITIONAL USES OF SURPLUS FROM BRAHMAPUTRA.

4. BARI'S PRINCIPAL COMPLAINT ON DELHI MEETINGS (AND PREVIOUS) WAS INDIA'S "JUDICIAL" APPROACH, I.E., THAT EVERY BANGLADESHI POINT MUST BE PROVED WITH FACTS AND FIGURES AS IN A COURT OF LAW. HE SAID BDG SIMPLY DID NOT HAVE HARD DATA ON MOST TOPICS FOR WHICH IT CLAIMS DIVERSION HAS HAD ADVERSE EFFECT. HE SAW NEED FOR "POLITICAL" RATHER THAN "JUDICIAL" APPROACH BUT DID NOT FORESEE CHANGE IN INDIAN ATTITUDE.

5. ACCORDING TO HIM, BDG PLANS PURSUE UNGA INITIATIVE BEFORE RETURNING TO CONFERENCE TABLE WITH INDIA.  
CHESLAW

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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